(b) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No Separate funds are earmarked for the purpose. However, funds are released on the basis of *inter-se* priority and subject to availability. Various projects for development of infrastructure and promotion of tourism in the State are prioritised and sanctioned every year in consultation with the Government of Assam for Central financial assistance. During the Ninth Plan (till 2000-2001), 58 projects worth Rs. 1402.53 lakhs have been sanctioned. For the year 2001-2002, 18 projects have been prioritised for Central financial assistance of Rs. 874.00 lakhs.

(b) In the Ministry of Tourism, thrust has been on development and upgradation of various tourist facilities namely, tourist accommodation, wayside amenities, budget accommodation, beautification and refurbishment of historical monuments/monasteries etc. In order to develop and promote tourism in the region, the Ministry of Tourism has taken the following steps:

- A Chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management has been opened at Guwahati.
- In pursuance of PM's initiative for North East, a full-fledged Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology has been set up at Shillong.
- A video film on tourist attractions for North East has been produced to give wide publicity to the region.
- Financial assistance for promotion of Fairs and Festivals is provided to North Eastern States every year on continuing basis.
- Our 18 overseas tourist offices are giving due publicity to the North Eastern States for the promotion of tourism in the region.

Promotion of tourism in Orissa

1644. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are drawing up specific plan for the promotion and enrichment of tourism in Orissa during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government and the amount of budget earmarked for this purpose;

(c) whether Government have identified some new places of tourist importance in the State; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to promote those spots/places as places of tourist attraction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides some financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them every year.

(b) Nineteen projects of Orissa with estimated Central component of Rs. 506.50 lakhs have been prioritised during the current financial year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Safety of tourist places

1645. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia, France etc. have advised their tourists not to visit India as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 27th September, 2001; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to propagate abroad about safe tourist places in India like Ajanta, Ellora, Goa, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Government of Australia and the Government of France have *inter-alia* advised their citizens to avoid travelling to Jammu and Kashmir in India. The matter has been taken up with them through Ministry of External Affairs, to review their advice.

(b) A Seven-Point Programme to meet the adverse conditions in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in USA of September 11, 2001, is being implemented. These seven points are: (i) Do not ring alarm bells too often; (ii) Propagate India as a safe and secure destination; (iii) Step-up marketing in the Western and Northern world; (iv) Break new grounds in the East and South, particularly with regard to China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Australia; (v) Give special boost to domestic tourism, particularly the